

A  
0  
0  
0  
7  
3  
8  
0  
0  
2  
5



NATIVE BUREAU LIBRARY FACILITY

# INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS



A SERIES OF PUBLICA-  
TIONS RELATING TO THE  
AMERICAN ABORIGINES

---

## A NATIVE COPPER CELT FROM ONTARIO

BY  
ALANSON SKINNER

---

NEW YORK  
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN  
HEYE FOUNDATION

1920

LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA  
SAN DIEGO

**Publications of the Museum of the  
American Indian, Heye Foundation**

---

**THE GEORGE G. HEYE EXPEDITION  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTH AMER-  
ICAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Vol. 1**

The Antiquities of Manabi, Ecuador: A Preliminary Report. By Marshall H. Saville. 1907. \$25.00.

**Vol. 2**

The Antiquities of Manabi, Ecuador: Final Report. By Marshall H. Saville. 1910. \$25.00.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM  
OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN,  
HEYE FOUNDATION**

**Vol. 1**

No. 1: Lucayan Artifacts from the Bahamas. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 1. 50c.

No. 2: Precolumbian Decoration of the Teeth in Ecuador, with some Account of the Occurrence of the Custom in other parts of North and South America. By Marshall H. Saville. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 3. 50c.

No. 3: Certain Kitchen-middens in Jamaica. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 3. (Reprinted, 1919.) 50c.

No. 4: Porto Rican Elbow-stones in the Heye Museum, with discussion of similar objects elsewhere. By J. Walter Fewkes. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 3. 50c.

# INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS



A SERIES OF PUBLICA-  
TIONS RELATING TO THE  
AMERICAN ABORIGINES

---

## A NATIVE COPPER CELT FROM ONTARIO

BY  
ALANSON SKINNER

---

NEW YORK  
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN  
HEYE FOUNDATION  
1920

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

THIS series of INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS is devoted primarily to the publication of the results of studies by members of the staff of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and is uniform with HISPANIC NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS, published by the Hispanic Society of America, with which organization this Museum is in cordial coöperation.

A NATIVE COPPER CELT  
FROM ONTARIO

BY  
ALANSON SKINNER







NATIVE COPPER CELT FROM ONTARIO



## A NATIVE COPPER CELT FROM ONTARIO

BY ALANSON SKINNER



THE specimen here illustrated is an extremely long, thin celt, measuring 15 in. in length, by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. at the bit and 2 in. at the poll, and is of a type more often encountered in the area from Tennessee southward to the Gulf of Mexico. It is made of native copper, shaped by hammering, the lamination still being visible beneath the green corrosion.

The celt, with one other, similar except that its edges flare at the bit, was found in 1908 in an immense Attiwandaron or Neutral Indian cemetery at Saint Davids, Ontario, by contractors engaged in stripping off surface sand to obtain a deposit of commercially valuable gravel beneath.

Aside from the fact that this implement

is of a type that could not fail to attract attention from any locality, its occurrence so far from the region where the form normally occurs is of unusual interest. While it is possible that the Attiwandaron were acquainted with the sources of native copper on Lake Superior, through their neighbors, the Huron and Tobacco Nations, the type and technique of this celt eliminate this direction as its source of origin. That the specimen came from the lower Mississippi or near the Gulf of Mexico is rendered more probable by the fact that discoidal beads, tubes, cups, gorgets, and even whole shells of *Strombus gigas*, a conch found in Southern waters, were not uncommon at Saint Davids, and also at other Attiwandaron sites in the township of Beverly and at Lake Medad, near Waterdown, Ontario.

No similar celt from New York is known to exist in any museum, but the same type has been found in various southern localities. For references to and illustrations of these, see Clarence B. Moore, *Certain Aboriginal Remains on Black Warrior River*, figs. 27, 28, 33, Philadelphia, 1905.







X 29659

A 000 738 002 5

No. 5: Note on the Archaeology of Chiriqui. By George Grant MacCurdy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 4. 50c.

No. 6: Petroglyphs of Saint Vincent, British West Indies. By Thomas Huckerby. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 16, 1914, No. 2. 50c.

No. 7: Prehistoric Objects from a Shell-heap at Erin Bay, Trinidad. By J. Walter Fewkes. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 16, 1914, No. 2. 50c.

No. 8: Relations of Aboriginal Culture and Environment in the Lesser Antilles. By J. Walter Fewkes. Reprinted from *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 46, 1914, No. 9, 50c.

No. 9: Pottery from Certain Caves in Eastern Santo Domingo, West Indies. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 17, 1915, No. 1. 50c.

### Vol. 2

No. 1: Exploration of a Munsee Cemetery near Montague, New Jersey. By George G. Heye and George H. Pepper. 1915. \$1.00.

No. 2: Engraved Celts from the Antilles. By J. Walter Fewkes. 1915. 50c.

No. 3: Certain West Indian Superstitions Pertaining to Celts. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Journ. Amer. Folk-Lore*, Vol. 28, No. 107, 1915. 50c.

No. 4: The Nanticoke Community of Delaware. By Frank G. Speck. 1915. \$1.00.

No. 5: Notes on the Archeology of Margarita Island, Venezuela. By Theodoor de Booy. 1916. 50c.

No. 6: Monolithic Axes and their Distribution in Ancient America. By Marshall H. Saville. 1916. 50c.

### Vol. 3

Physical Anthropology of the Lenape or Delawares, and of the Eastern Indians in General. By Aleš Hrdlička. (*Bur. of Amer. Ethnol., Bull. 62*, 1916, with added title-page and cover.) \$1.00.

### Vol. 4

No. 1: The Technique of Porcupine-Quill Decoration among the North American Indians. By William C. Orchard. 1916. \$1.00.

No. 2: Certain Archeological Investigations in Trinidad, British West Indies. By Theodor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 19, 1917, No. 4. 50c.

No. 3: The Nacoochee Mound in Georgia. By George G. Heye, F. W. Hodge, and George H. Pepper. 1918. \$1.50.

### Vol. 5

No. 1: A Letter of Pedro de Alvarado Relating to his Expedition to Ecuador [1534]. By Marshall H. Saville. 1917. 50c.

No. 2: The Diegueño Ceremony of the Death-Images. By E. H. Davis. 1919. 50c.

No. 3: Certain Mounds in Haywood County, North Carolina. By George G. Heye. Reprinted from *Holmes Anniversary Volume*, 1916. 1919. 50c.

No. 4: Exploration of Aboriginal Sites at Throgs Neck and Clasons Point, New York City. By Alanson Skinner. 1919. \$1.00.

#### Address:

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, HEYE  
FOUNDATION,  
BROADWAY AT 155TH ST.,  
NEW YORK CITY